

Pilose crayfish - *Pacifastacus gambelii*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G4G5 SNR

Population Status: Unknown

Limiting Factor: Unknown

Comment: None

Introduction

The pilose crayfish (*Pacifastacus gambelii*) is a pigmented species with the margins of the rostrum converging (Hobbs 1972). This species is native to the western United States from California to Montana and Wyoming to Oregon (NatureServe 2009). The pilose crayfish is considered critically imperiled (Montana) to apparently secure (California and Idaho). Crayfish are generally considered omnivores feeding on plants, animals, and detritus (Smith 2001; Hobbs and Lodge 2010). The pilose crayfish probably mate in the spring and are nocturnal (NatureServe 2009). However, limited information about the life history of the pilose crayfish is known. In Wyoming, the pilose crayfish is native to the Snake and Bear River Drainages (Hubert 1988).

Habitat

The pilose crayfish can be found in lentic and lotic habitats (NatureServe 2009). This species may not tolerate warm water habitats or fish populations.

Problems

h Introduced crayfish and sport fish may displace or eliminate the pilose crayfish (NatureServe 2009).

Conservation Actions

h None.

Monitoring/Research

None.

Recent Developments

In 2009, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel completed new statewide collections of crayfish to expand upon and update the survey by Hubert (1988). The pilose crayfish was collected in the Snake River Drainage; however, *O. virilis* appears to have displaced the pilose crayfish in the Bear River drainage (Hubert 2010).

References

NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application] Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: January 14, 2010).

Hubert, W. 1988. Survey of Wyoming crayfishes. *The Great Basin Naturalist* 48:370-372.

Hubert, W. A. 2010. Survey of Wyoming crayfishes: 2007-2009. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne.

Hobbs, H. H. 1972. Biota of Freshwater Ecosystems, Identification Manual No. 9, Crayfishes (Astacidae) of North and Middle America. Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago.

Hobbs, H. H., and D. M. Lodge. 2010. Decapoda. Pages 901-967 in J. H. Thorp and A. P. Covich, editors. *Ecology and Classification of North American Freshwater Invertebrates*. Academic Press, San Diego, California.

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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. A range map is unavailable for the taxa because distribution and ecology are poorly known in Wyoming.